

**Inflammatory Fever.**

The following letter of inquiry and reply, from the New York World, will be found valuable to those who may have cattle similarly affected.—

"M. B., Wilmore, Pa.—'A new and fatal disease is now prevailing among the cattle in this locality. The symptoms developed are stupidity and unwillingness to move, very high fever, hot mouth and head. In from six to twelve hours after been attacked swelling commences; in some cases it is confined to the shoulders, in others to the breast, and in others to the hind-quarters. The swelling increases at a fearful rate until death takes place and ends excruciating sufferings, which generally takes place in from eight to twelve hours. I have lost two fine steers eighteen months old.'

"This attack is inflammatory fever. It is a disorder caused generally by over-feeding and the animal taking on flesh too rapidly. The character of the cattle attacked and the seasons of the year prove this fact. It occurs in late spring and the autumn when the grass is most luxuriant. The animals attacked are those principally predisposed to taking on both fat and flesh, and by a too sudden removal from scanty pasturage and low-feeding to that of rich herbage which possesses much nutriment and is stimulating in character. The disease in some instances occurs when the cattle have been removed from one pasturage to another without any apparent change in its quality, and located on the same farm; but more particularly so, when they have been driven from poor land, at a distance, to a richer soil. In the last-named instance there are two causes—the previous poverty, the fatigue and exhaustion of the journey. There is no doubt that the evil arises to a great extent from negligence and oversight in feeding and managing young stock. This disease, when once fairly established in the animal system, rarely admits of eradication, but, fortunately, it may in general be prevented. As soon as the attack is discovered the animal should be immediately housed, warmly clothed, and the following purging drench administered, if between the age of one and two years: Take twelve ounces Epsom salts and four drachms of powdered caraway seed; dissolve in one quart of oatmeal gruel, made thin. As soon as the bowels are well relaxed commence to administer a new drench, composed of one drachm antimonu et potassa tartras, thirty grains powdered digitalis, and three drachms of pulverized nitre. Mix and give in one quart of oatmeal gruel made a little thick. This fever drench should be administered three times daily, and no food fed other than a little mash. At the very first appearance of the attack of this disease, and before swelling of any of the parts of the system gets under much headway, hot fomentations should be applied several times daily to the principally part or parts for at least one hour each time. For this purpose take two thick pieces of woollen cloth and keep one of these constantly submerged under the hot water, and change the cloth often, and apply in as hot a state to the swollen parts as they can be borne without causing distress. As soon as the febrile symptoms have evidently subsided and the animal appears like itself, and eats a little, the fever drenches should not be given oftner than once daily at night. This disease is of an highly-inflammatory character, which soon terminates its course favorably or otherwise, and where it does not terminate fatally, the attack is often succeeded by great debility, which is almost as dangerous to life as the fever. The bovine species of animals, therefore, must not be too much lowered in condition."

**BONE MEAL FOR GRAPES.**—The editor of the London Horticulturist asserts that among all the fertilizers proposed for the grape, none embody more of the necessary ingredients than bone meal. It should be applied as early in the season as possible. About a ton to the acre makes a dressing that will prove valuable for two or three years. In the West, as a rule, the necessity for the phosphates is not yet felt to any considerable degree. Where it is so bone meal is to be recommended. The quantity, however, is excessive. One thousand pounds ought to make itself felt for years.

**Results of Feeding Early.**

Professor Miles noticing the exhibition of fat steers made by Messrs. Shearer & Baker, butchers at Lansing, gives the history of four of the animals to illustrate how profitable it is to feed animals from the very earliest age if we desire to promote early maturity. He says:

The four steers were all got by the same bull—a Shorthorn now owned by the exhibitors. No 2 was out of a three-year-old heifer, and No 3 and 4 were out of two-year-old heifers, which cannot be considered as advantageous in determining their development as feeders. They were all raised on "skim-milk," so that their rapid development cannot be attributed to pampering or extra high keep when calves. A uniform system of feeding from birth to secure a continuous increase in weight has apparently determined the results, which might undoubtedly have been better if a higher system of feeding had been practiced.

The ages and weights of these animals were given as follows: No 1, age 626 days, weight 1,225 lbs.; No. 2, age 606 days, weight 1,200 lbs.; No. 3, age 582 days, weight 1,100 lbs.; No. 4, age 614 days, weight 1,160.

The weight per day from birth would therefore be: for No. 1, 1.96 lbs.; for No. 2, 1.98 lbs.; for No. 3, 1.89 lbs.; for No. 4, 1.89 lbs.; a rate of increase that may be considered as quite satisfactory on the score of profit, while the price they commanded in market showed that their good quality was appreciated by the butchers.

This high rate of increase could not in all probability be maintained during another year, as my experiments in feeding conclusively show that young animals give a greater rate of increase than those that are older, and the experience of feeders who have kept accurate accounts with their animals accords fully with the results of direct experiment.

The rate of increase of the premium animals at the recent "fat stock show" at Chicago shows the great advantage of early feeding.

In the class of steers "4 years and over," the average gain per day was 1.25 lbs.; in the class "3 years and under 4," the average gain per day was 1.45 lbs.; in the class "2 years and under 3," the average gain per day was 1.67 lbs.; while the class "1 year and under 2" made an average gain per day of 2.18 lbs.

As these steers are supposed to represent the choicest fat animals in the country that have been fed for the purposes of exhibition, the rate of increase made may perhaps be accepted as a maximum under very favorable conditions.

The close approximation to these results made by the steers of Messrs. Shearer & Baker under a quite moderate system of feeding must, under the circumstances, be considered as an evidence of successful management.

The rapid rate of increase in young animals is not the only advantage of early feeding. My experiments in feeding show that young animals give a better return for feed consumed than those that are older; in other words, costs less to produce a pound of increase of live weight in the young animal than it does in those that are older.

At the present low price of beef it is doubtful whether it will pay to feed animals that are four or five years old as the rate of increase is slow and a large amount of feed is required to produce it.

There is undoubtedly a good profit in feeding steers that can be turned at the age of two years or less weighing from 1,200 or 1,400 lbs., as the greatest rate of increase, can in such cases be obtained at the expense of the smallest amount of food.

**VIRGINIA ENGLISH BLUEGRASS.**—The farmers in Morgan County are introducing, with great success, a grass which they call the Virginia English bluegrass. It grows in bunches like orchard grass, but has much finer, longer and greener blades. It has a stem like oats and similar head, only much heavier. It is very hardy and strong, and peculiarly adapted to our mountains. It is said to be equal to bluegrass as a feed. It has not yet had a trial in Canada. If it answers expectations, it will be a welcome addition to our grasses.

American fruit to the value of over \$3,000,000 was exported last year. The great increase of this business is shown by the fact that in 1862 the entire proceeds of such exportations amounted to but \$269. Our Canadian apples excel any others grown in America, and when imported into England are classed A No. 1.

**Russian Cheese.**

An article of diet of almost universal consumption among the poorer classes in Russia is the variety of home-made cheese known as "Tworog," of which more than 7,000,000 pounds are sold annually in St. Petersburg alone. Its mode of preparation is very simple. Sour skim milk is placed over night in a warm oven, and poured the next day upon a sieve, where it is allowed to remain until all the whey has run off. The curd is then packed tightly in a wooden vessel, and covered with a lid made to fit exactly within it. On this heavy weights are placed, so as to keep up a constant pressure on the mass of curd; and the top of the vessel is filled with cold water, which is frequently renewed. Tworog cheese is, in fact, nothing more than hard pressed curd. In the Northwestern and Southern Governments of the Empire it is often made from sheep's milk, and in Bessarabia a superior quality, made from the whole milk, is prepared, which possesses far better keeping properties than the ordinary sort, and which is exported in considerable quantities to Wallachia, Moldavia, and even to Austria.—[American Dairyman.

**CUTTING CORNSTALKS.**—We observe in some of our exchanges a discussion of the subject of cutting cornstalks before feeding to cattle. One writer states that by cutting about an inch long the hard ends cause soreness in the mouth among his cattle. To avoid this another recommends lengths of three inches. It will be at once perceived that such coarsely chopped feed cannot be all eaten. The best success we ever witnessed was in the practice of an old farmer many years ago, who gauged his machine only a fourth of an inch long, and then putting on his six horses, the whole of the cornstalks were rapidly reduced to a condition of fine chaff. The hardest stubs were thus made eatable, and the cattle consumed the whole. He could thus cut in half a day enough to last a week. Meal or ground feed was thus easily mixed with it. It will be observed as an important advantage in cutting corn fodder, that it greatly improves the texture of the manure, by preventing the long fibrous masses which are almost impossible to pitch, draw, spread and plow under.

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